

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 5th December 1903.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 27th November writes as follows:—

The Tibetan expedition.

It is very difficult to say at present what will be the result of the Tibetan expedition. From what people have seen in the Boer war, they do not think that Tibet will be conquered by the English without much difficulty. It is our belief, however, that if the war be a war with Tibet alone, it will not be long for the English to conquer that country, for Tibet is almost dead. The Lama of Tibet is practically the sovereign of his country and acknowledges the supremacy of China only in name. As for China, her present condition makes it impossible for her to stand against the English even if she has the desire to help Tibet. The expedition will decide whether Tibet will be Russia's or England's. Our interest is therefore involved in the expedition. We fear lest Russia help Tibet and wage a prolonged war with England, compelling the Indian Government to burden the famine-stricken inhabitants of India with heavy taxes, and deferring, probably for a long time, the reforms and improvements which India expects from Lord Curzon.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 27th, 1903.

2. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 29th November writes as follows:—

The troubled state of Asiatic politics.

Nations and kingdoms have, like individuals, their days of adversity as well as prosperity. It is long since the evil days of the Asiatic continent began. This sad result is not the consequence of the rise of the Musalman power, but of its downfall. The present is Asia's darkest day. One Asiatic country is losing its independence after another, one Asiatic people is being despoiled and enfeebled after another. India is the head of Asia, and this head was struck with lightning long ago.

RANGALAY,
Nov. 29th, 1903.

China is an empire vast, unwieldy, and decrepit with age, but still containing within herself a wonderful, hidden principle of strength, and rich in hoarded science and wisdom. Let her only get rid of her fetid sores and she will again become strong by collision with Russia, and by the example and inspiration of Japan.

With a view to aid Japan and thereby to relax, if possible, the Russian hold upon Corea, as well as to try Russia's strength on the frontier, the English have found it necessary to force their way into Tibet. There is a secret path to that country through Bhutan, and since the English have set their heart upon the acquisition of that path, they are sure to become masters of it. But a path to Tibet from India will also be a path to India from outside. And who knows whether to acquire this path would or would not be to invite enemies to India?

In order to prevent Russian and German ascendancy on the Persian Gulf coast, England has felt called upon to strengthen her position there. But the pent up Russian energy bent upon territorial aggrandisement, thus denied an outlet on all sides, is likely to make an outlet for itself in Corea—a snowy waste, but rich in all kinds of mineral wealth, and with a view to the ultimate, acquisition of which Russia has been pushing on her railway through the vast Siberian waste.

Such is the troubled state of Asiatic politics—a state which cannot fail to create serious misgivings of a vast impending revolution.

The ascendancy of the modern Europeans has become unbearable to the world like that of the Yadavs of old (the progeny of the god Krishna, who perished simply in the excess of their pride). The wide world seems to appear too narrow to the Europeans in their inordinate craving for luxury. Every European nation aspires to become the absolute master of the world. Africa, America, Australasia, are all under European domination. Not the smallest island in the remotest sea but owns the subjection of Europe. The Europeans are bent on finding colonies even in the undiscovered Polar regions. But the world, for all that, is not becoming either European or Christian. The Asiatics, the Africans are not yet extinct. The Christians have no longer an inch of ground where to find a foothold for themselves. And yet the craving for luxury is burning in the Christian heart like an unquenchable funeral pyre—a craving under whose tormenting rage they seek to devour the whole world.

But adjustment of balance is one of the attributes of the Divine Plan that rules the world, and whenever that balance is disturbed the divine force that lies at the bottom of the world shows itself in its terrific form. He who knows this secret of the universe must know that the world is on the eve of a vast revolution.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

CHARU MIHIR,
Nov. 24th, 1903.

3. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 24th November publishes complaints of lawlessness in many parts of the district. Lawlessness in different parts of Mymensingh. Utter lawlessness, says the paper, prevails in Gafargaon. No one ventures to give evidence against the *budmashes*. Enforcement of section 110 of the Code of Criminal Procedure is imperative in the place. The District Magistrate and the Police Superintendent are requested to stay in the place for a time and check the *budmashes*.

A correspondent complains of a similar state of things in Kishoreganj. The houses of several persons who gave evidence against the *budmashes* have been burnt down. The *budmashes* have become so defiant that on the occasion of a police investigation they defied the Daroga to his very beard and beat the complainant, Mehar Ali, in his presence. On receiving intelligence of this, the Head Inspector went in person to the place with a strong police force. He searched several houses and discovered a digging bar, as well as the key of an iron chest. But nothing further has yet come of this investigation.

Another correspondent, writing from Uthri, says that the *budmashes* have stolen, killed, and skinned a calf of his, for having given evidence against them in a case under section 110 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The case was reported to the thana, but no investigation has yet been held. Threats are being held out against those who gave evidence.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Nov. 25th 1903.

4. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 25th November writes that the experiment of the renewal of licenses of fire-arms through the Police Sub-Inspectors of thanas in the mufassal has proved a failure. The holders of licenses have not yet got back their licenses. Moreover, the thana officers are charging fees in excess of what is allowed under the orders of the authorities. The District Magistrate will, it is hoped, issue orders that licenses may also be renewed at sadar, so that those who find it convenient, may avoid the clutches of the mufassal police.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Nov. 25th, 1903.

5. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 25th November says that the new chaukidari law has been productive of only evil effects in the Midnapore district. When Act XX was in force, the chaukidari force was four times what it is now; thefts and dacoities were less frequent; paiks, *sardars*, and chaukidars used to go on rounds regularly. The new law only sucks the life-blood of poor people in the shape of the chaukidari-tax. Sixty or 70 per cent. of the population of the district is composed of poor people who have nothing to guard and who are, in spite of their extreme property, obliged to pay the chaukidari-tax. No. 2 Santrha section under the Keshiarhi thana contains 700 houses, and maintains 11 chaukidar and 1 dafadar. The following table gives the annual cost of this chaukidari force :—

| | Rs. | A. | P. |
|--|-----|----|----|
| Salary of 11 chaukidars at Rs. 5 per month per chaukidar ... | 660 | 0 | 0 |
| " of 1 dafadar at Rs. 6 per month ... | 72 | 0 | 0 |
| Collecting panobayet's commission, etc., at 15 per cent. ... | 109 | 12 | 9 |
| Total ... | 841 | 12 | 9 |

This large amount of money is collected from 700 houses only, most of which are inhabited by poor day-labourers.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 26th, 1903.

6. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 26th November writes that certain Assam cooly-recruiters recently decoyed a number of Uriyas from their homes and brought them to Calcutta. While passing along Harrison Road

Uriya farmers decoyed by Assam cooly-recruiters.

these people attracted the notice of some students who came to the rescue, and the cooly-recruiters at once decamped. Two officers of the *Sanjivani* office then came and lodged the helpless wretches at a place in Beniapukur. There were seven men, six women, and five children—eighteen persons in all. The names of the men are as follow:—Naru, Kalu, Nabina, Uchchhala, Sugad, Mohana, and Madhab. All of them are farmers, extremely poor, and came from village Sradhapur, thana Lohagarh-Itakata in the Cuttack district. They have been sent back to Cuttack, their passage-money being collected by subscription.

7. The *Suhrid* [Noakhali] of the 26th November says that gambling has become very prevalent in Noakhali town, the prostitute quarter of which is said to be the hot-bed of the vice. The police does nothing to prevent it, because, it is said, there is no prohibitory order against it in the town. The attention of the District Magistrate is drawn to the matter.

SUHRIDD,
Nov. 26th, 1903.

8. A correspondent writes to the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 27th November as follows:—

The disastrous effect of the Arms Act in Barisal.

It was at an evil moment that Sir Alexander Mackenzie was induced to make the operation of the Arms Act so severe in Barisal. The helpless people now find it impossible to save their crops, their cattle, and even their lives from the ravages of wild beasts. The reasons which prompted Government to adopt such a measure are such as can ill stand the test of rational criticism. Has the result been in any way beneficial? Has the number of murders and cases of violence by means of fire-arms diminished? The murders that used to be committed before this severe measure was introduced, were committed with unlicensed fire-arms. Government has not been able to take possession of all these fire-arms, and the *budmashes* make use of them now as they have done always. Not knowing how else to stop crime, Government has deprived law-abiding people of their fire-arms. And the result has been disastrous. The policy of thus visiting on one person the iniquities committed by another is not met with in any other country in the world. Is not Government ashamed of its conduct in making the innocent people of Barisal a prey to the wild beasts for the crimes committed by a few bad characters?

HITAVADI,
Nov. 27th, 1903.

We hope Sir Andrew Fraser, our new Lieutenant-Governor, will be pleased to take the sad case of the people of Barisal into his kind consideration, and save their lives and property by repealing that most obnoxious measure of Sir Alexander Mackenzie.

9. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 27th November says that the pedlars, who sit along the foot-paths of the Strand Road below Howrah bridge, Calcutta, morning and evening, and who are really *gundas*, commit great oppression on buyers. The police sentries at the place do nothing against these *gundas*. A few days ago, a respectable man paid a 4-anna coin to one of these pedlars for two cauliflowers, the price of which he had settled at 3 annas. But when he asked for the cauliflowers the man abused him and demanded 3 annas more. The constable on the beat was informed of the matter, but to no effect. The poor man had to give up all hope of recovering the 4-anna piece and go away. The writer was an eye-witness of the occurrence.

MIHIR-O-SUDH KAR,
Nov. 27th, 1903.

10. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 28th November says that the case of illegal publication which had been referred to in a previous issue (see Report on Native Papers of the 21st November 1903, paragraph 6) was transferred by the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, to the Detective Department under him. But it is a matter of great wonder that the Detective Police has as yet been able to do nothing in the matter. They appear, however, to be very expert in matters connected with public meetings and speeches.

NAVA YUG,
Nov. 28th, 1903.

11. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 28th November says that recently one night a respectable man named Trailokya Nath Sarkar was attacked by a *gunda* near Bangal Babu's bazar in Howrah town. Trailokya Babu's cries drew a number of people to the place and the *gunda* was obliged to run away. It is a shame that cases like this should frequently occur in the heart of the town and near the District Magistrate's Court and residence. Every one

HOWRAH HITAISHI,
Nov. 28th, 1903.

Gunda oppression in Howrah town.

in the town knows that Panchanantala is infested by *gundas*, but it is a wonder that no police constable is kept on watch at the place.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

BASUMATI,
Nov. 28th, 1903.

12. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 28th November complains that the conduct of Mr. Weston, Chief Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta, has caused widespread discontent. Mr. Bourdillon acted most injudiciously in bringing him from Barisal to fill such an important post. His undue interference in the work of Mr. Bonnaud, the experienced Barrister-Magistrate, his domineering behaviour towards the Honorary Magistrates, and his permission to the Court Inspector to conduct cases in his Court, as he used to do in the mufassal, have given offence all round. The indiscriminate infliction of whipping in cases of petty thefts has astonished everybody. Indeed, it seems that in all particulars, Calcutta has been turned into Barisal.

NAVA YUG,
Nov. 28th, 1903.

13. The *Navu Yug* [Calcutta] of the 28th November writes as follows:—
When it was first proposed to appoint a Civilian as Chief Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta in the place of Mr. Pearson who was about to retire, we thought it our duty to support the proposal. We did not entertain the slightest idea that Mr. Bourdillon would bring a young and inexperienced officer like Mr. Weston all the way from Barisal to Calcutta to fill such an important post. Referring to the comments of the *Weekly Notes* of Calcutta on this subject, the *Indian Mirror* observes:—

“A deserved tribute is paid to the sterling judicial merits of Mr. Pearson, the late Chief Presidency Magistrate. Apart from the inexpediency of bringing a Civilian from the mufassal to fill the vacancy, our contemporary seems to think that the Civilian Chief Presidency Magistrate has not done well, and Mr. Weston is requested to ‘realise that he is in a different atmosphere.’ The Chief Magistrate is empowered to regulate the business of the Court, but that is hardly any reason, the *Weekly Notes* adds, for the Chief Presidency Magistrate to interfere with the discretion of the Magistrate of the Northern Division of co-ordinate powers, and at any rate his senior, so far as experience of the Calcutta Police Court is concerned, in transferring cases to Honorary Magistrates for trial. ‘We hear that the Magistrate of the Northern Division has been told to try some cases himself which he thought might well have been disposed of by a Bench of Honorary Magistrates, apparently from a belief (Mr. Weston’s) that the Honorary Magistrates of this town are not any better than the amateur Magistrates in the mufassal.’ And Mr. Weston is treated to a further cold douche as thus: ‘The Chief Presidency Magistrate must know that it is not possible to acquire by intuition what his veteran coadjutor has acquired by experience. He (Mr. Bonnaud) was Chief Presidency Magistrate before him (Mr. Weston) for some considerable time, and has personal knowledge of the capacities of the Honorary Magistrates of the city, some of whom are members of the legal profession, enjoying a large practice and possessing considerable knowledge of the law.’ Mr. Weston is roundly advised not to make his authority felt, as in the mufassal, by calling for explanations from Magistrates of co-ordinate powers or other needless interference with their discretion. The *Weekly Notes* also notices with disapproval Mr. Weston’s ‘whipping’ tendency in inflicting sentences, as also his apparent determination to employ the Court Inspector as Public Prosecutor.”

Mr. Weston promised to prove by his conduct that the apprehensions expressed in the Press relating to the appointment of a Civilian as Chief Presidency Magistrate were groundless. It is not too much to say that he has failed to keep his promise.

The manner in which Mr. Weston has been interfering with the work of Mr. Bonnaud, Presidency Magistrate, Northern Division, does him no credit. Mr. Bonnaud, it must be said, possesses greater experience of Calcutta from his previous experience than Mr. Weston, who simply abuses his powers by his meddlesomeness.

14. Referring to the Dhendai tea-garden cooly case, the same paper writes that the accused Tom and Reid must be regarded as guilty of murder, inasmuch as the *post-mortem* examination has revealed the fact that death was due to severe beating. The Judge alone knows whether under the circumstances he was justified in discharging the accused on bail. Most probably he transferred the case to section 304A, simply because otherwise it would have been impossible to grant bail. Let the reader judge for himself what must have happened if the accused had been natives.

NAVA YUG,
Nov. 28th, 1903.

15. A correspondent of the *Nihar* [Contai] of the 1st December says that the stamp vendors in the mufassal bazar sell stamps at a profit of 4 to 6 annas per rupee. Cartridge papers are sold by them at two pice per piece. Government is requested to have the allegation enquired into by a trustworthy officer.

NIHAR,
Dec. 1st, 1903.

(d)—Education.

16. The *Mahima* [Calcutta] of the 13th November writes:—

Complaints against Dr. Walsh.

Dr. Walsh came to India after passing the Indian Medical Service Examination. After serving for some time in Dacca and in Berhampore he came to Calcutta, and he is now the Superintendent of the Campbell Medical School. We do not know whether he claims to be an oculist, but it is said that when he was at Berhampore, eye-patients very seldom approached him. Rumour has it that he was once punished for some offence, and that his promotion was stopped for one year. However, we hoped that in Calcutta he would prove a wiser man. But it is to be regretted that many complaints have arisen against him even in the Campbell Medical School. His conduct towards some of the teachers of the institution can hardly be regarded as the very best. His affection for his students is of the same sort. About a month ago ten students were late in attending the Surgical Ward, and he fined some of them Rs. 5 each and expelled one for three months. This last student belonged to the fourth-year class. Expulsion for three months meant expulsion from the final examination of the Campbell Medical School, for he could have no chance of passing the examination. We ask Dr. Walsh to consider whether it is just to ruin the future prospects of a student, who, after four years of incessant study and toil, was about to reap the fruits thereof by passing the final examination and winning his title. We admit that for the proper enforcement of discipline it sometimes becomes unavoidably necessary to inflict punishment upon the students. But for that reason no one ought to advocate extremely severe punishment for trivial offences. By expelling the student for three months, Dr. Walsh has indirectly expelled him for good. It will be for the authorities to consider whether he has the power to act in this manner. We invite the attention of the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Bengal, to this matter. If Dr. Walsh will not take warning now, we shall be compelled to enter into the discussion of many unpleasant topics relating to him.

MAHIMA
Nov. 3th, 1903.

17. The *Manbhum* [Manbhum] of the 24th November complains that the

A complaint.

gurus of the lower and upper primary schools in the Manbhum district are most shabbily treated by the Deputy Inspector and the Sub-Inspector of Schools. It is through their neglect that the gurus do not get the District Board grants regularly. Sometimes the grants fall in arrears for eight or nine months. Considering that the amounts of the grants-in-aid vary from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per month, such irregularity causes great hardship to them. It is to be hoped that the attention of the Deputy Commissioner will be drawn to the matter.

MANBHUM,
Nov. 24th, 1903.

18. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 26th November wants to know who

Congress chairs in the Bethune College.

gave permission to Mr. J. Ghoshal to keep the chairs, used in the Calcutta Congress of 1901, in the Bethune College. The chairs, after being allowed to remain in the Bethune College for about two years, were removed on Tuesday last by Mr. J. Ghoshal with the help of the College clerk. Mr. Pedler, it is to be hoped, will enquire into the matter.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 26th, 1903.

SANJIVANI.
Nov. 26th, 1903.

19. A correspondent writes to the same paper refuting the charges brought against the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, by the editor in the issue for last week:—

The proposition that the success of the new scheme of education will depend solely on the Sub-Inspectors of Schools can hardly be maintained. Very few of them have the necessary education. Of the thirty Sub-Inspectors of Schools drawing Rs. 100 per month, only four are graduates, the remaining twenty-six being more or less ignorant of English. As regards promotion, mere seniority can never be the sole criterion. Graduates and able officers have sometimes been promoted in preference to their older and senior brethren. Regard being had to Bengal Government Circular No. 658, dated the 8th February 1901, Mr. Pedler was perfectly justified in promoting certain deserving teachers to Deputy Inspectorships. In most cases, however, Sub-Inspectors have been appointed as Deputy Inspectors. Four teachers among those who returned from the Kurseong College have been made Deputy Inspectors of Schools, and they were men of very exceptional merits. So if the prospects of some Sub-Inspectors have been marred by the promotion of these men, the cause of education will be furthered and not hampered by the result. Kiran Babu's appointment as Deputy Inspector can hardly be objected to on the ground that there were many senior Sub-Inspectors whose claims have been superseded. Not only is he a graduate, but he possesses more merits and experience than any of the senior Sub-Inspectors, and in selecting such a capable man for the Deputy Inspectorship, Mr. Pedler has acted justly.

BASUMATI,
Nov. 28th, 1903

20. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 28th November says that at last Government has done justice to Professor J. C. Bose by promoting him to the Imperial Education Service, of which he will be the ornament.

BANGAVASI,
Nov. 28th, 1903.

21. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 28th November writes:—
Our Brahmo contemporary of the *Sanjivani* is highly enraged at the appointment of Babu Syamadas Mukerji as a Professor in the Bethune College. The Lady Principal of the College, our contemporary says, proposed that a Professor of Philosophy should be appointed, but contrary to this, Babu Syamadas, who is proficient only in Mathematics, was selected for the appointment. The late Babu Aditya Kumar Chatterji was also a Professor of Mathematics in the Bethune College. Where then is the impropriety of appointing Babu Syamadas in his place? This gentleman is a very competent teacher and possesses an exemplary character. Although Mathematics is his special subject, he is not ignorant of Philosophy, and is at the same time highly proficient in Physical Science. By appointing such a worthy man as Professor the authorities have done a great good to the Bethune College.

RANGALAY,
Nov. 29th, 1903.

22. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 29th November writes as follows:—

Lord Curzon's desire to import English culture into India.

Lord Curzon, we suppose, has a desire to import English culture into India. He therefore wishes that both students and Professors should live near colleges, so that the former may be in constant touch with, and under the constant supervision of, the latter. This was indeed the old Hindu practice. The Hindu student used to live in his preceptor's house as one of the household in order to profit by his constant example and instruction. But this is an ideal which it is impossible for our English rulers to follow with regard to us. The Hindu has always looked and will always look upon English education as purely bread-and-butter education, just as he once looked upon Arabic and Persian education as bread-and-butter education. For the Hindu the only recognised liberal culture has always been the study of Sanskrit. Lord Curzon's attempt, noble as it undoubtedly is, will not therefore succeed, for nothing that goes against the grain of a people can be permanently successful.

Our Christian Government can, of course, contend with perfect justice that it is not responsible for the religious education of Hindus and Musalmans whom it allows perfect freedom in religious matters. But as a godless education has a perverting effect upon the people, it is the duty, as it is the interest, of a

Government to keep an eye upon the education of its subjects. If our Government, however, declares that if it must impart religious instruction to Indian students it must do so only according to Christian methods, we must perforce undertake ourselves the religious instruction of our own youths.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

23. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 24th November complains that the wooden bridge lying about 2 miles to the north of Syamganj, on the road from Susang Durgapur to the east bank of the Brahmaputra, has long been hanging down and its bamboo substitute has now broken down in the middle. Passengers are suffering great inconvenience in consequence.

CHARU MIHIR,
Nov. 24th, 1908.

24. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 26th November writes:—
Babu Nalin Behari Sircar has recently shown how grossly the Chairman of the Corporation and the European Commissioners have abused the unlimited powers which the new Act has given them. Legal experts have given it as their opinion that the municipal authorities answerable for the various illegalities are liable to be sued for the recovery of two and-a-half lakhs of rupees. All this confusion is owing solely to the incapacity of the Chairman, Mr. Greer, and the selfishness of the European Commissioners. These gentlemen should be made to give up all connection with the affairs of the Corporation. Attempts should be made to raise money from all the wards with a view to institute suits against them; otherwise there is no chance of this morbid habit of making ducks and drakes of the rate-payers' money being put a stop to. To ensure concerted action in this matter, a monster meeting of the inhabitants of Calcutta should be immediately held in the Town Hall.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 26th, 1908.

25. The *Mahima* [Calcutta] of the 27th November writes that a patient, at first admitted into the General Ward of the Campbell Hospital, was afterwards suspected of having got the plague and transferred to the Plague Ward. Dr. Walsh, the Superintendent, on examining the patient, was of opinion that it was a case of poisonous boil attended with fever. He then opened the boil, and there was profuse hæmorrhage, which was stopped with great difficulty. He then administered phenacetine, and the result was that the patient died during the following night. Now, who is to be responsible for this questionable treatment which cost the life of the patient?

MAHIMA,
Nov. 27th, 1908.

26. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 27th November complains that the attention of the municipal authorities has not yet been drawn to the miserable condition of Menick Basu's Ghat Street, in Ward No. 2, in spite of repeated intimations. A break having been caused in a drain near the street, all the contents have flowed into it, and rendered the street and its vicinity an intolerable nuisance. There is no knowing when the municipal authorities will pay attention to this matter.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 27th, 1908.

(f)—*Questions affecting the land.*

27. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 25th November says that the work of surveying the Balarampur khas mahal in the Midnapore district in this harvest time is doing great harm to the standing crop in the village. The poor villagers petitioned the Settlement Officer to postpone the work for a month, but the latter said that he had express orders from Government to continue it. Again, the Settlement Officer has ordered the villagers to supply each *amin* with three coolies on a wage of 6 pice per cooly per day. But in this harvest time coolies are difficult to procure on even 4 annas per day. From fear of the Settlement Officer the *aimadars* are supplying coolies and paying their wages from their own pockets. It cannot be believed that these oppressions are being committed under orders from Government. The attention of the District Magistrate is drawn to the matter.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Nov. 25th, 1908.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

MEDINI BANDHAY.
Nov. 25th, 1903.

28. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 25th November says that traders in Midnapore frequently complain that goods sent to them from Calcutta by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway are extracted from packages and purloined in transit. A correspondent of the *Nihar* newspaper, writing from Garhbeta, makes the same complaint. The attention of the authorities of the railway is drawn to the matter.

A railway complaint.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Nov. 25th, 1903.

29. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 25th November writes as follows:—
Inconvenience of railway passengers.

As long as the Railway Commission remained sitting and Mr. Robertson was in India, so long the railway authorities paid some attention to the removal of the inconveniences of passengers. We expected that some improvements would really be effected in the system of railway administration, and that the sufferings of native passengers would be mitigated. But we now find ourselves grievously disappointed. We notice the same overcrowding in carriages, the same inconvenience and sufferings of passengers, and the same indifference of the authorities as before. There seems to be no attempt to provide latrines in inter and third class carriages. We notice below some of the principal inconveniences of native passengers:—

(1) To purchase tickets is a very difficult task. Even at principal stations where tickets are sold at all hours of the day, the conduct of booking-clerks puts the passengers to trouble. The booking-clerks of other stations behave most haughtily and do not issue tickets before the train comes quite close to the station. Some of the passengers are unable to proceed on their journey for want of tickets. Booking-clerks sometimes refuse to issue tickets, saying that no small change is available for the silver coins offered. When an ignorant passenger offers a smaller sum than necessary for his ticket, the ticket-collector sometimes throws the money away in great rage, and the poor man tries in vain to find out all the coins.

We think that the railway authorities should take the trouble of visiting the booking-offices from time to time. At the principal stations female passengers, especially those who are respectable, find it impossible to purchase tickets. They are therefore compelled to entrust other persons with money to purchase tickets for them, and are sometimes cheated. There should be separate booking-offices for female passengers at principal stations. But the railway authorities do not mind this at all.

(2) Want of sufficient room in carriages is an inconvenience only next in importance to the foregoing. Passengers are often so closely packed that if cattle were similarly put together by any person, he would make himself liable to prosecution by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. But unfortunately we are so placed that even the most intolerable of human sufferings do not excite any one's pity, though the breaking of the crab's legs has been put down for a crime.

(3) Station-masters seem to be quite indifferent to their duties. In other countries their principal duty consists in looking to the convenience of passengers. But in India they behave just like on-lookers, paying no attention to the passengers. A few years ago Mr. Jacobson, the present Secretary to the Railway Conference Association, then District Traffic Superintendent, Calcutta, issued a circular calling the attention of station-masters to their duties. But with the retirement of this officer from the Eastern Bengal State Railway service, the circular was lost sight of.

There are other oppressions besides those mentioned above, such as the oppressions of the Railway Police, the railway coolies, the Parcels Office, etc. We hope His Excellency Lord Curzon will again call the attention of the railway authorities to these matters.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 27th, 1903.

30. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 27th November says that formerly both the trains from Goalundo which arrive at the Sealdah railway station at 6 A.M. and 8 A.M. respectively used to contain fish-vans. This arrangement had a two-fold

A railway complaint.

advantage—it supplied fish to Calcutta people early in the morning and gave a good profit to the fish-dealers. But now the 6 o'clock train does not contain fish-vans, and this change has spoiled both these advantages. The District Traffic Superintendent has been petitioned in this matter by the fish-dealers, and it is hoped that he will do justice to them.

31. Writing to the same paper, Babu Prabhas Chandra Ray, Bagura *via* Pirpainti, says that on the 26th September last, while he was travelling by No. 8 Down Passenger

HITAVADI.
27th Nov. 1903.

A railway complaint.

train, it became necessary for him to send a wire from the Madhupur station, but when the train arrived there he found no man near the signboard on the down platform which bears the notice "Messages received here." He had therefore to go round to the telegraph office on the up platform, but before he could finish his business there the train steamed off, probably sooner than usual, with his goods, which consisted of an umbrella, a bedding, and a trunk. He then wired to the station-masters of the Asansol and Howrah stations to take them down from the intermediate class carriage in which they were left. He went to Asansol by the next train and learnt that the ticket-collector of the station had before his arrival reported that the goods had not been found. The correspondent then went to the Burdwan station, and there received his umbrella and bedding from the ticket-collector, but there was no news of his trunk. The correspondent wrote a letter to the Traffic Manager and received a reply, letter No. ^{9928 G.O.}_{9872 G.}, dated the 30th October 1903, to the effect that the matter was being enquired into. He has learnt from a man, whose name and address he does not know, that a trunk, which answers the description of his trunk, lies in the unclaimed stock at the Howrah station, but the station-master of Howrah has not condescended even to answer the letter which was written to him in this matter. The attention of the authorities is drawn to the whole case.

32. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 28th November says that the train which starts from the Howrah railway station at 8-10 A.M. and runs up to Umlala, is

HOWRAH HITAISHI,
Nov. 28th, 1903.

A railway complaint.

always late by 5, 10, 15 or 20 minutes. The day on which it starts at the true time it comes to the platform only two or three minutes before, so that passengers are greatly troubled in getting into it. Formerly the train used to start at 9 A.M., and that was a very convenient hour.

33. A correspondent of the same paper complains of the very inadequate supply of carriages in the trains on the Howrah-Amta Light Railway. The hardship and inconvenience of the passengers on the line are, on account of this, very great.

HOWRAH HITAISHI.

A railway complaint.

34. The *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 28th November complains that while quarterly free passes for the use of persons who superintend the weighing of coal at Asansol

RATNAKAR,
Nov. 28th, 1903.

A complaint.

have been issued by the East Indian Railway Company, they have been withheld from persons who do the same work at Raniganj. This concession in favour of some coal-mine owners to the exclusion of others is unjust. Representations were made to the Traffic Superintendent at Asansol and to the General Traffic Manager, but no reply has yet been vouchsafed.

35. A correspondent of the *Mistabhasi* [Calcutta] of the 1st December says that the authorities of the Howrah-Amta Light Railway are very indifferent to the conveniences of the passengers on the line. The rate

MISTABHASI,
Dec. 1st, 1903.

The Howrah-Amta Light Railway.

of fare is very high. No return tickets are issued. The number of inter-class carriages in the 3-34 train is inadequate. There are no second-class carriages in the trains on the line. Daily passengers lord it over other passengers. The attention of the District Magistrate is drawn to these inconveniences on the line.

36. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 1st December says that the water of the Hijli Tidal Canal is sometimes kept so high as

NIHAR,
Dec. 1st, 1903.

The Hijli Tidal Canal.

to cause it to overflow the neighbouring villages by passing through the sluices which have been constructed along its two banks. When the water is kept 2 feet lower, these sluices serve the great and good purpose of draining the neighbouring fields. At present the water is high and doing great harm to the standing crop. The authorities are requested to keep it low for at least a week from now.

BANKURA DARPAN,
Dec. 1st, 1903.

37. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 1st December enquires when passenger trains will run on the Midnapore-Jherriah line, because all other means of conveyance in the Bankura district have been stopped in expectation of them.

(h)—General.

BASUMATI,
Nov. 28th, 1903.

A rumoured taxation on pilgrims to Jagannath.

38. It is rumoured, says the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 28th November, that Government has determined to impose on pilgrims to Jagannath a tax similar to that which has been imposed on pilgrims to Hardwar. At present, Government is realising from pilgrims to Jagannath nearly Rs. 10,000 every year in the shape of license-fees for keeping lodging-houses in Puri town. A further taxation on them will therefore be a great oppression. The religious sentiments of Hindus induce them to make large expenses in pilgrimage, even at the cost of all comforts of life. It will therefore only add to the ill-name of the Government if its cupidity leads it to impose a sort of Jizya tax on pilgrims to Jagannath.

BANGAVASI,
Nov. 28th, 1903.

Proposed poll tax on Puri pilgrims.

39. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 28th November writes that the Hindu community has been alarmed at the rumour that it is in contemplation to levy a poll tax on Puri pilgrims. The keepers of lodging-houses at Puri are required to take out licenses from Government, and the pilgrims are thus taxed, though indirectly. Government has a clear income of Rs. 10,000 from this source. Why, in addition to this, a proposal of further taxation should be made, it is difficult to understand. It is to be hoped that His Honour Sir Andrew Fraser will take due notice of this matter, and take such steps as will allay the unrest in the public mind.

III.—LEGISLATION.

JYOTI,
Nov. 26th, 1903.

The Universities Bill.

40. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 26th November writes that it must be admitted on all hands that the system of education obtaining in the Indian schools and colleges is not perfect. The only regret is that the system as set forth in the Universities Bill is not calculated to effect the much-needed reform. It is proposed that the Syndicate will enquire into all the details of management of schools and colleges. It is all very well to make fair proposals on paper, but when they are reduced to practice, the result is often found to be disastrous. The rules and regulations that will be framed to give effect to the various proposals made in this Bill may be so rigorously enforced as to make the higher education of our countrymen an impossibility.

The Bill does not propose any reforms. It only aims at reducing the number of Fellows, putting a limitation on their term of office, and reconstituting Senates and Syndicates. Indeed, the only object of the measure seems to be to enable Government to have entire control of the Universities. It appears that Government is no longer willing to pay any regard to expression of opinion on higher education, but is anxious only to assert its authority. It is expressly stated in the Bill that cheap education will no longer be available. In a country where it has been the immemorial custom to impart education free of charge, Government has been trying to raise that charge higher and higher.

The result of this policy will be that the middle classes will find it impossible to educate their boys. Alas! what a deplorable future awaits the country.

MAHIMA,
Nov. 27th, 1903.

Additional Members in the Supreme Council.

41. The *Mahima* [Calcutta] of the 27th November writes as follows:—
We are glad that Government has desired to appoint four additional Members to the Supreme Legislative Council for considering the Universities Bill, and hope that Mr. Justice Gurudas Banerji will be one of them. Mr. Banerji has a large experience in educational matters and possesses the confidence of every Indian, rich or poor.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 27th, 1903.

The Universities Bill.

42. Referring to the Universities Bill, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 27th November writes as follows:—
That the system of teaching and holding examinations which now prevails in India is anything but perfect, and that it

is desirable to have it reformed, no one denies. It is, therefore, a matter of regret that the proposed Bill presents no hope of speedy educational reform. It is very easy to say that it will not do for the Universities to do nothing except holding examinations, and that they should introduce an improved system of education and see that the colleges give good education to their students. But where shall the money required to introduce a truly effective educational reform come from? So long as these funds will not be forthcoming, all efforts at University reform will be futile. As a matter of fact, the grant of 25 lakhs of rupees which Government proposes to make to the Universities will be more beneficial than the many proposals for reconstructing the Senate and the Syndicate. Again, if the stringent rules which are proposed to be enforced in the matter of the affiliation and working of colleges deprive a class of students of high education, nothing will be more regrettable than that.

The Bill contains nothing which proposes to rectify the evils of the present system of teaching and holding examinations. Reducing the number of Fellows, fixing their term of office, reconstructing the Senate and Syndicate, and establishing Government's power over the Universities,—these are the matters to which undue importance has been given. To say that too many cooks spoil the broth, that a great deal of time is wasted in noise and discussion, and that many Fellows are Fellows only in name, is only telling stories which every one already knows. And we do not believe that a reduction of the number of Fellows and the establishment of Government's power over the Universities will produce the desired effect. The late Sir Alexander Mackenzie had, when proposing a new municipal law for Calcutta, used arguments similar to those which have been brought forward by the framers of the Universities Bill, and every inhabitant of Calcutta now feels what improvement the Calcutta Municipal Act has effected in the working of the Municipality.

As for private institutions, it is certainly desirable to improve their constitution and management, but too much stringency in that direction is likely to result in the abolition of many among them. No hard-and-fast rule regulating fees has been laid down in the Bill, but it has been proposed to empower the Syndicate to suppress underselling of education. This is a dangerous proposal, and although it gives Government the power to make final decisions in such cases, we cannot support it. Government has every right to see whether private institutions give good education or not, but why should it enquire what fees are paid by their students? How, again, can the Government, which does not shrink from giving to able natives less pay than what it gives to worthless Europeans, cherish the desire to judge the value of institutions from the scales of their fees?

43. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 28th November takes exception to the proposal made in the Universities Bill to reduce the number of the working Fellows of the Calcutta University from 205 to 100 and make the remaining 105 Fellows honorary Fellows only. What have these 105 gentlemen done which deprives them of their dignity and adorns them with a mere trinket, a worthless title? No one has as yet been able to show that the Senate of the Calcutta University has been guilty of any serious wrong, of having obstructed the spread and progress of education, or of having done any harm to the Education Department. And if it has been guilty of any such wrong, the Universities Commission and the authorities ought to have proved the fact by specific instances. Again, it was the authorities themselves who did the work of nominating Fellows. Why did they nominate more Fellows than were necessary? Were they so long blind and did the Universities Commission possess any charm by which that blindness was cured? What harm would there have been if the number of Fellows proposed had been 120 and not 100? Why have not the authorities granted this small prayer of the public?

The Syndicate will be master of the private colleges, whose competition with Government colleges is well known. So that if the interests of the former be not well represented in the Syndicate, their condition will really become serious. Mr. Raleigh said in his speech that half of the members of the Syndicate would be taken from the proprietors and professors of colleges. But the Bill provides otherwise; namely, half the number of members of

BANGAVASI,
Nov. 28th, 1103.

each Faculty alone will be collegemen. Where then is security for the interests of private colleges in the Syndicate?

HITAVARTA,
Nov. 29th, 1903.

44. It is a wonder, says the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 29th November, that the *Englishman* newspaper which zealously supported the Official Secrets Bill, has now changed its opinion, and is strongly condemning the measure. Perhaps it thought at first that the provisions of the Bill would affect only the native papers, but having now come to understand that the Anglo-Indian papers will receive the same treatment under the Bill as the native papers, it is repenting of its former conduct. The Bill is not likely to do any good, for the more the Government tries to conceal its underhand doings the more anxious the people will be to know them.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Nov. 30th, 1903.

45. In continuation of what has appeared in a previous issue (see Report on Native Papers of the 28th November, paragraph 49), the *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 30th November says that the Universities Bill has been framed with great tact. Section 4 appears to confer upon registered graduates and the Faculties the privilege of electing 20 ordinary Fellows out of 100. But taken with the proviso that the Fellows "shall hold office for five years," the section means that if the Fellows cannot win the good graces of officials they will be dismissed for good after five years of office. They will thus lose their independence. Again, will the 80 ordinary Fellows, who will be nominated by the Chancellor, have the courage to vote independently of Government? Surely not. Because they know that if they vote independently they will not be nominated a second time. The Faculties will be composed mostly of members nominated by Government, so that the 10 Fellows whom they will elect will be Government's men. In short, 90 out of the 100 Fellows will be Government's men.

Half of the Syndicate will be composed of heads of or professors in affiliated colleges. But will the authorities nominate heads of or professors in private colleges instead of those of Government colleges? This point has not been clearly dealt with in the Bill. There is a jealousy between the heads of and professors in private colleges and those of Government colleges, so that if the former go to inspect private colleges justice will seldom be done. The greatest fault of the Bill is that it proposes to make the Senate a puppet in the hands of the Syndicate. On questions of affiliation and disaffiliation the Syndicate will make *enquiries*, the Senate will only make *remarks*, and Government will pass final orders of *confirmation*. This procedure will reduce private colleges to a pitiable condition, because the Syndicate which will have the power to make enquiries primarily will be composed mostly of heads of and professors in Government colleges. The rules which have been proposed to regulate affiliation of colleges are very good in themselves, but they are not fit for a poor country like India.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

BASUMATI,
Nov. 21st, 1903.

46. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 21st November writes as follows:—

His Excellency Lord Curzon has, during his visits to the States of Native Princes, delivered many excellent speeches. The mellifluous cadence, the sublimity and the simplicity that characterize those speeches, are unquestionable. But we have always observed that in the whirl of his eloquence, His Excellency forgets the situation, the fitness of the occasion, and the individual spoken about, and the inevitable consequence is, that between words of mouth and actual practice, no consistency remains. We give here one or two instances. In his Nabha speech His Excellency incidentally observed:—

"Sometimes His Highness talks to me as though he were growing old and would like to rest, but I always tell him in reply that he is younger than the Sovereign who leans on his shoulders not the burden of a single State, but the entire British Empire.

The argument here is that His Highness of Nabha ought not to think of retiring from the toils and anxieties of governing his small State on the score of old age, seeing that His Imperial Majesty King Edward VII, who is older than he, has been ruling the vast British Empire. But can there be any comparison between the government of the British Empire by His Imperial

Majesty in his old age and the government of the Native States by the unfortunate Princes? If the Maharaja of Nabha is anxious to retire, it may not be really on account of the excessive toils of governing his people. The Sovereign Princes of India are but too well aware of their miserable situation. From the powerful Political Agent down to the European *syce*, every one of the Englishmen in their States is their master. The Princes must keep them in good humour in every matter, for the sword of Damocles hangs over their heads. If His Excellency had the slightest idea of the humiliation, insult, and mortification the Native Princes have to suffer at every step, he would never have, for the purpose of encouraging the Maharaja of Nabha, counted the years of His Imperial Majesty and those of His Highness.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

47. The *Mahima* [Calcutta] of the 27th November says that attempts

MAHIMA,
Nov. 27th, 1903.

The Budh Gaya Temple.

are being made on behalf of Buddhists to wrest the Budh Gaya Temple from the hands of the Hindu *Mohant* and give it to Buddhists. The temple is no doubt of Buddhist origin, but for many centuries Hindus have owned and offered *pindas* in it. The English Government of India may desire to give it to Buddhists in order to please the Buddhist Kings and Emperors of Asia, but it ought not to hurt the feelings of its Hindu subjects. Sir Andrew Fraser recently visited the temple and made enquiries about it in the absence of its *Mohant*. If he institutes an impartial enquiry into the matter, he will know that in this temple devout Hindus offer *pindas* to the dead. It is hoped that he will consider every circumstance in connection with the matter before giving his decision in it.

48. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 27th November has the following:—

HITAVADI,
Nov. 27th, 1903.

Destruction of Indian arts.

"The cotton and silk goods of India up to the period (1813 A. D.) could be sold for a profit in the British market at a price from 50 to 60 per cent. lower than those fabricated in England. It consequently became necessary to protect the latter by duties of 70 and 80 per cent. on their value or by positive prohibition. Had this not been the case, had not such prohibitory duties and decrees existed, the mills of Paisley and Manchester would have been stopped in their outset, and could scarcely have been again set in motion, even by power of steam. They were created by the sacrifice of the Indian manufacture. Had India been independent, she would have retaliated, would have imposed prohibitive duties upon British goods, and would thus have preserved her own productive industry from annihilation. This act of self-defence was not permitted her; she was at the mercy of the strangers."—*Mill's History of British India* (WILSON).

Those that think that the gradual decline and the ultimate destruction of the Indian hand-made manufactures have been the result of an unequal competition with goods manufactured with the aid of steam power will be able to perceive their error if they read the foregoing extract from Wilson's History. We have already shown that the industry and commerce of Bengal during the years which followed the battle of Plassey had suffered great injustice and oppression at the hands of the European merchants. Such injustice was indeed removed in 1769 by the officials of the Company, but fresh acts of high-handedness began to be committed, and under their orders the great majority of the artisans in Bengal were deprived of the right of freely pursuing the weaving and other occupations. As the native industries were not still completely destroyed and native manufactures could still be sold at a profit in England, the British authorities proceeded to impose heavy import duties upon Indian manufactures and to arrange for the free importation of British goods into India. To men like Warren Hastings, Thomas Monro, Sir John Malcolm, John Strachey and other retired Indian officials of eminence, the question was put by a Committee of the House of Commons—

"From your knowledge of the Indian character and habits, are you able to speak to the probability of a demand for European commodities by the population of India, for their own use?"

And the reply which every one of those officials gave was that the indigenous goods supplied all the wants of the Indians who, as a people, were not fond of luxury, that an Indian of the labouring classes did not earn more than three or four rupees a month, and that there was no probability of a demand for European goods by the Indian population, Mr. Monro supplementing his evidence by the remark that the Indian manufactures were far superior to the British, that a piece of Indian shawl, for instance, which he had used for seven years, was still as good as new, and that he, for one, would not care to use an English-made shawl if it were given him as a present.

But nothing daunted, the British merchants persisted in their efforts to bring about an expansion of their industries, and having failed in open competition, sought and obtained the aid of Government. Heavy duties were imposed on Indian manufactures, while "British goods were forced upon India without paying any duty." Nor were the British merchants ashamed of such reprehensible conduct. They freely made the admission that "we look upon this (heavy tax on Indian goods) as a protecting duty to encourage our own manufactures."

The monopoly in India's import trade was enjoyed by the East India Company down to the year 1813, after which all English merchants were given the right to trade with this country, and the result was that India began to be flooded with English-made goods.

Other measures having the same object, namely, the destruction of Indian manufactures, were also adopted by the Company. They imposed heavy duties on indigenous manufactures even in India. An enquiry made in the time of Lord Bentinck revealed the fact that while English piece-goods, then sold in India paid a duty of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., cloth manufactured by the natives for their own use was required to pay a duty of $17\frac{1}{4}$, and leather-made goods prepared and used in the country a duty of 15 per cent. on their value. The duty on country-made sugar was Rs. 5 higher than that on sugar imported from England. In this way inland duties were imposed on 235 kinds of Indian goods and they remained in force for sixty years. When they were repealed in 1836, the native trader and the native artisan had been completely impoverished. It was about this time that the railway was opened in India and led to the ruin of the native boatman and the native proprietor of carts and carriages, and carried English manufactures even into the hearts of remote Indian villages.

What Wilson says in the extract made from Mill's History of British India is perfectly true. The following is Wilson's concluding statement in this connection :—

"The foreign manufacturer employed the arm of political injustice to keep down and ultimately strangle a competitor with whom he could not have contended on equal terms."

It is a matter of regret that in order to promote the interests of English merchants the British Government does not even now shrink from placing obstacles in the way of reviving the Indian industries. As soon as a few cotton mills were set up in India, the authorities showed undue favour to their countrymen by reducing the duty on English piece-goods and increasing that on native-made cloth, the former being required to pay a duty of $3\frac{1}{2}$ and the latter of 5 per cent. from 1896. It behoves every patriotic Indian to consider if any improvement of indigenous industries will be possible so long as such unequal treatment remains in force.

49. A correspondent, under cover of the *nom de plume* "Sri Kag Bhusandi Thukkur" writes to the *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 28th November :—

A drug for ruptured spleen.

The second discovery—an infallible remedy for spleen disease. This medicine of mine will cure only Bengali spleens. Price not high, only Rs. 4-8 or Rs. 5, exclusive of postage.

Ingredients of the medicine :—(1) Shoe powder, 5 *tolas*. The shoe must be the shoe of the left foot, and must belong only some one among the British Privates who, while out on a shooting excursion, mistake human beings for bears, wild boars, young of birds or birds' eggs, or insects. (2) Ashes derived from burning the blows dealt with the muskets held in the right hands of those Privates, 5 *tolas*. If recovery does not follow within a week, the price will be forthwith returned by telegraphic money-order, with which will be sent a pair

of black-bordered Santipuri *dhutis* and a present of my cow, Mangla, for the supply of milk.

50. Referring to the stricture which has been passed by the missionaries of the Baptist Mission Church on Lord Curzon's friendly attitude towards Indian religions, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 28th November writes as follows:—

Lord Curzon and the Christian missionaries.

BASUMATI,
Nov. 28th, 1903.

When Lord Wellesley and one or two of his immediate successors refused to allow Christian missionaries to settle in the country, and when after making ineffectual efforts to land in British territory in India, missionaries like Messrs. Marshman, Ward, etc., had to spend their lives in Serampore, which was a Danish possession at the time, it was then that the English Sovereign was just and impartial towards Indian religions. He was just and impartial towards Indian religions when native converts in Madras were not allowed to hold Government posts, when Hindu religious rites and festivals used to be held in the English Collectorate in the Madras Presidency and received salutes from Fort St. George. But religious impartiality in India has now come to mean encouraging Christianity and supporting Christian missionaries with money. Missionaries paid by Government are now converting Hindus and Muhammadans with impunity and drawing 2 lakhs of rupees every month from revenue paid by Hindus and Musalmans. Nowadays Christian missionaries are taking away the sons and daughters of Hindus and Musalmans from the religions of their fathers and laying their hands on even minors with impunity. The children of the famine-stricken and flood beaten inhabitants of India are being driven into the missionary fold. Nowadays Lieutenant-Governors like Sir Charles Elliott, who are fed and fattened on India's money, not only eulogise Christianity in Christian Churches, but also render help to Christian missions. They hurt personally as well as with the aid of their Christian officials, Hinduism and Muhammadanism. It becomes a religious man to ask people to stick to their own religions. Wisely did Lord Bishop McArthur say, during the speech which he delivered in Bombay before starting for England, that the great religions of the world ought to be honoured and respected.

51. Our Anglo-Indian contemporary of the *Pioneer* newspaper, says the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 28th November, expresses himself in the same way about the prospects of Indian agriculture as we have all along been doing (Report on Native Papers of the 31st October, paragraph 15). The long and short of the matter is that so long as Indian cultivators will remain poor, agriculture will not improve in the country.

The *Pioneer* on Indian agriculture.

BANGAVASI,
Nov. 28th, 1903.

URIYA PAPERS.

52. The *Utkal dipika* [Cuttack] of 21st November says that the Government of India has preserved the dignity of equity by rejecting the claim for compensation of one Mr. Bain, who was convicted and sentenced to six months' imprisonment in an offence of murder of a cooly, but was acquitted by the High Court.

Mr Bain's claim for compensation disallowed.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Nov. 21st, 1903.

53. Adverting to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor's tour in Orissa, the same paper observes that Chota Nagpur and Orissa are the backward Divisions in the Bengal Province, and it is a happy thing that His Honour's attention has been directed to those Divisions. His Honour has done immense good to the Uriyas by re-establishing the use of the Uriya language in the Courts at Sambalpur, for which His Honour deserves the warmest thanks. On the other hand, the writer alluding to the rumours of the annexation of Orissa to the Central Provinces just as His Honour had assumed charge of the Province, and to the article in the *Englishman* dealing with the subject, proves that the visit to Chota Nagpur and Orissa so soon after his taking charge may be with the object of deciding that question. But the writer believes that as His Honour is a just and pious ruler and is known as a patron of the Uriyas, he will be the last person to put obstacles in the way of the

The Lieutenant-Governor's tour in Orissa.

UTKALDIPIKA.

progress of the Uriyas, which they have been making by Orissa's close connection with the Province of Bengal.

UTKALDIPIK A,
Nov. 21st, 1903.

54. Referring to the Commissioner's remarks on the working of the Cuttack Municipality during the year 1902-1903, the same paper observes that the remark made by the worthy Commissioner, Mr. K. G. Gupta, that the Cuttack Municipality neglected every important work, cannot be admitted to be reasonable. The writer believes that the Commissioner made such remarks through some mistake, some other District and Divisional Officers having perhaps made similar remarks which were not acceptable to Government. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has deprecated the custom of finding fault instead of taking notice of the merits.

UTKALDIPIK A.

55. The same paper says that the Co-operative Credit Societies Bill shows the deep sympathy and good-will of the Government towards its poor subjects and that the Government is ready to help its people as much as possible. If the Bill passes into law, there is no doubt that the tenants will learn frugality and mutual assistance, but it cannot be said as yet how far the measure will be successful. The Member of Council who introduced the Bill is not sure of its success, and admits that it will not save the tenants from all sorts of difficulties. But it is a matter of experiment and every one ought to assist in it. The Bill is, no doubt, the product of deep thought and foresight, but its success is doubtful, as it has been framed on a disinterested basis. The trend of the present day is such that people are reluctant to help even their nearest relatives, not to speak of their neighbours and men of their own profession. The poor subjects who may be willing to help each other, have no means to create and support Bank. Whoever can afford to lay by anything is naturally anxious to invest his savings in some productive work. A sharer in the Bank will have no personal pecuniary advantage, while if he deposits the amount of his share in the Post Office Savings Bank he will get some interest. As such, the rule excluding the shareholders from a portion of the profits of the Bank is not a good one. To create interest in the minds of the people, some provision ought to be made in the rules by which the prospect of some personal benefit might be held out to them.

UTKALDIPIK A.

56. The same paper says that cholera and fever have abated in the town of Cuttack, but cases of the former are still reported from the interior.

Public health.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Nov. 18th, 1903.

57. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 18th November says that the reduction of the salt-tax has not affected the price of the article in cases of retail purchase.

Reduction of salt duty.

ASSAM PAPERS.

SILCHAR,
Nov. 16th, 1903.

58. The *Silchar* [Silchar] of the 16th November writes as follows:—

The transfer of Mr. Johnston, Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Assam, from Cachar.

There are many tea gardens in Cachar. For this reason the law Courts have to deal with a large number of tea-garden cases. It is therefore of the utmost importance that an impartial executive officer should be posted here. Our present Officiating Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Johnston, is the most just official whom we have yet known. Even in Bengal, officers of his stamp are rare. It is a matter of the greatest regret that he has been transferred to Sylhet. The reason for this transfer is that the European tea-planters do not approve of his method of dispensing justice. They brought this matter to the notice of the Chief Commissioner. The planters, as well as the Chief Commissioner, do not like the idea that the Europeans and the natives should be tried on the same principles of law. The number of tea-gardens in Sylhet is small, and for this reason Mr. Johnston has been transferred to that place. After Lord Curzon's powerful advocacy of the cause of the planters and the humiliation of Sir Henry Cotton at his hands, it is but natural that the planters should have everything their own way.

59. The *Silchar* [Silchar] of the 16th November writes:—

Mr. Marshall's bill passed at last. The bill submitted by Mr. Marshall, the Manager of a tea-garden, member of the Local Board and contractor, has been passed by Mr. Fuller, the Chief Commissioner. The bill was objected to by the Sub-Overseer, Lalit Babu, and by the Assistant Engineer, Mallik Babu. But their objection was disregarded by the Chief Commissioner. The Sub-Overseer, the Assistant Engineer, and Mr. Johnston, the Officiating Deputy Commissioner, have all been censured for doing their duty. It is a wonder that the Assam Government has arrived at the decision that Mr. Marshall undertook the contract work only for the good of the Local Board. The illegality of Mr. Marshall's being at once a member of the Local Board and a contractor is ignored. This is the practice that prevails in the Province.

SILCHAR,
Nov. 16th, 1903.

60. The *Silchar* [Silchar] of the 16th November writes:—

Ungentlemanly conduct of an Englishman. It is a truism to say that Englishmen prefer their own happiness to that of others. Their doctrine is—Let other people suffer, while we enjoy all the comfort. Captain Cook, a volunteer, while conversing with another European on horseback, was greatly inconvenienced by being exposed to the sun. One Babu Jagat Chandra Mazumdar, happening to pass by that way, was suddenly deprived of his umbrella by Mr. Cook, who snatched it from his hands, and used it himself. The umbrella was returned to that gentleman when Mr. Cook had finished his conversation.

SILCHAR,
Nov. 16th, 1903.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 5th December, 1903.

